

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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SAJ-01 IO-10 DHA-02 /073 W

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R 161538Z DEC 75

FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6511

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: SERENDIPITY AND THE CSU

SUMMARY. BAVARIAN MINISTER PRESIDENT GOPPEL TOOK QUICK ADVANTAGE OF FORTUITOUS TIMING OF A SPIEGEL ARTICLE ON FORCED ADOPTION IN THE DDR TO REBUFF DDR REPRESENTATIVE IN BONN, STRIKE A BLOW AGAINST OST-POLITIK, AVOID AN EMBARRASSING PERSONAL MEETING, AND GAIN PUBLIC SYMPATHY IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH FORCED EVEN BAVARIAN OPPOSITION PARTIES (FDP AND SDP) TO EXPRESS PUBLIC AGREEMENT.END SUMMARY.

1. MINISTER PRESIDENT GOPPEL TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE PUBLICATION OVER THE WEEKEND OF ARTICLE IN HAMBURG NEWS MAGAZINE SPIEGEL TO AVOID WHAT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN DISTASTEFUL PERSONAL MEETING WITH DDR REPRESENTATIVE IN BONN, MICHAEL KOHL (LOCALLY REFERRED TO AS "THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RED CABBAGE" IN CONTRAST TO "THE BLACK CABBAGE" --

HELMUT KOHL) AND AT THE SAME TIME SCORE A POLITICAL COUP IN BAVARIA.

2. MICHAEL KOHL HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL CALL ON GOPPEL IN MUNICH, TO HAVE AN OFFICIAL LUNCHEON AS GUEST OF THE BAVARIAN STATE CHANCELLERY, AND BE RECEIVED BY THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE BAVARIAN LANDTAG, HELMUT ROTHMUND (SPD). THESE FORMALITIES, ROUTINELY ACCORDED HIGH RANKING DIPLOMATS VISITING BARARIA FOR THE FIRST TIME, COULD HARDLY HAVE BEEN DENIED KOHL IN NORMAL COURSE OF EVENTS.

3. PUBLICATION OVER LAST WEEKEND OF SPIEGEL ARTICLE CLAIMING, WITH APPARENTLY SOUND DOCUMENTATION, THAT DDR HAS POLICY OF PUTTING UP FOR ADOPTION CHILDREN OF PARENTS WHO HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED FOR ATTEMPTING FLEE EAST GERMANY PROVIDED GOPPEL WITH READY-MADE OCCASION GET OUT OF HIS DIFFICULTY. IN LETTER DELIVERED TO KOHL MONDAY MORNING IN MUNICH, GOPPEL CHALLENGED DDR REPRESENTATIVE TO REFUTE CHARGES IN ARTICLE. TEXT OF LETTER (UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION) READS:

"DEAR MR. MINISTER:

"THE GERMAN PUBLIC IS HORRIFIED AT THE REPORT WHICH HAS COME OUT IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OVER THE WEEKEND THAT AUTHORITIES OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC NOW PUNISH ATTEMPTS TO FLEE WITH PUNISHMENT DIRECTED AGAINST THE FAMILY: THEY PUT UP FOR ADOPTION CHILDREN OF PARENTS WHO HAVE BEEN CAPTURED DURING ATTEMPTS AT FLIGHT (REPORT FROM SPIEGEL, NO. 51 OF DECEMBER 15, 1975, PAGE 36).

"I CANNOT CONCEIVE THAT THIS REPORT CORRESPONDS TO THE TRUTH. THIS WOULD BE A HORROR WHICH THE CIVILIZED WORLD HAD NOT EXPERIENCED SINCE HIMMLER. I EXPECT YOU TO BE ABLE TO DENY THIS REPORT UNEQUIVOCALLY. I ASK YOU TO COMMUNICATE YOUR POSITION TO THE HEAD OF THE STATE CHANCELLERY, MINISTERIALDIREKTOR DR. K ESSLER, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY TELEPHONE IF NECESSARY, BEFORE THE SCHEDULED LUNCHEON. I MYSELF AM AT PRESENT OUT OF MUNICH."

5. IN HIS TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH KESSLER KOHL DENOUNCED SPIEGEL ARTICLE AS "DIRTY SLANDER" OF DDR BUT PLEADED THAT SHORTNESS OF TIME MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO REFUTE ALLEGATIONS. GOPPEL FORTHWITH CANCELED HIS APPOINTMENT TO RECEIVE KOHL AND ALSO

LUNCHEON SCHEDULED TO BE GIVEN FOR KOHL BY STAATSEKRETAER ALFRED SEIDL, REPRESENTING GOPPEL. ROTHMUND HASTENED TO FOLLOW SUIT BY CALLING OFF HIS RECEPTION FOR KOHL IN LANDTAG BUILDING AND THE SPD PRAESIDIUM IS QUOTED BY THE SUDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG (SZ) AS HAVING CALLED ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO "TAKE A RESOLUTE STAND AGAINST THIS VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS". THE FDP, NOT TO BE OUTDONE, IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT THIS "INHUMAN PRACTICE" OF THE DDR MUST BE CONDEMNED (SZ).

6. THE SZ GOES ON TO REPORT FROM BONN THAT GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN KLAUS BOELLING TOLD A FEDERAL PRESS CONFERENCE THAT, WHILE "THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD NO KNOWLEDGE THAT THIS PRACTICE (NOTE: SETTING OUT OF CHILDREN FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT PARENTS' CONSENT) WAS A COMMON ONE...IT WAS NOT UP TO HIM COMMENT ON A SOVEREIGN DECISION OF THE BAVARIAN MINISTER PRESIDENT".

7. AT LEAST A MEASURE OF SUSPICION IS POSSIBLE THAT, HAD THE SPIEGEL ARTICLE NOT COME TO HAND IN SUCH TIMELY FASHION, GOPPEL AND THE BAVARIAN GOVERNMENT WERE PREPARED TO FIND SOME OTHER PRETEXT TO DO WHAT THEY DID. A SPOKESMAN OF THE BAVARIAN GOVERNMENT DENOUNCED THE MONDAY MORNING VISIT BY KOHL TO THE FORMER CONCENTRATION CAMP AT DACHAU AND HIS LAYING OF A WREATH THERE AS "AN EXPRESSION OF HYPOCRISY AND CONTEMPTUOUS CYNICISM" IN VIEW OF THE SHOOT-TO-KILL ORDERS AND BOOBY TRAPS PREVAILING ON THE EAST GERMAN SIDE OF THE COMMON BORDER. SPOKESMAN FURTHER REFERRED TO KOHL'S VISIT AS "A SLUR ON THE VICTIMS OF DICTATORSHIP". IN THIS CASE ALSO, THE OTHER "DEMOCRATIC PARTIES" IN BAVARIA WERE PROMPT IN EXPRESSING THEIR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OUTRAGE.

8. GIVEN ABOVE HYPOTHESIS, THE SPIEGEL ARTICLE WITH ITS GERMANY-WIDE CIRCULATION MIGHT HAVE BEEN SEIZED UPON BY GOPPEL AND HIS CSU ASSOCIATES AS AN UNEXPECTED BONUS, TOUCHING, AS IT DOES, ON THE STRONG FAMILY FEELINGS OF THE AVERAGE GERMAN AND APPEARING IN A JOURNAL NOT NOTED FOR ITS SYMPATHY WITH THE CSU. SPIVACK

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